

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1115

Monday, the *29th July 1940*
14th Karkadagam 1115

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K. C. I. E.), in the Chair.

Messrs. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri, T. K. Nayar, L. M. Pylee and K. Kochukunhan Kaimal were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

D. C. COLONIES NOT OCCUPIED

126. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) whether there are depressed class colonies which are completely unoccupied;
- (b) whether there are colonies which are inhabited by depressed classes belonging to Hindu, Christian and other communities;
- (c) if so, what are the names of such colonies; the number of persons belonging to each community?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*):

(a) Yes; a few, viz.,—

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Madaikonam | 6. Payyankode |
| 2. Panancheri | 7. Karlom |
| 3. Parapacode | 8. Vilvattam |
| 4. Chowwara | 9. Thonoorkara |
| 5. Venduruthi | 10. Chittur |

(b) All the depressed classes belong to the Hindu community. There are no depressed classes belonging to Christian and other communities. There are colonies where depressed class converts and members

of other communities, viz., Nayar, Mohammadan, Velan, Ezhuvas, etc., occupy.

(c) Actual figures cannot now be given as an enquiry has to be conducted in 92 colonies of the depressed classes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): May I know, Sir, whether any expenditure is incurred with regard to these 10 colonies that are unoccupied completely?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): Yes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): May I know what will be the amount required for the up-keep of these colonies?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): Something is given for thatching, fencing, etc. I shall be very happy to give the figures afterwards.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): May I know, Sir, whether the Government has any objection to completely remove these colonies from the list of colonies if nobody is forthcoming to occupy them.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): We don't want other communities to come in and enbound these Depressed classes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): What I say is, whether there is use of these 10 colonies that are left practically unoccupied?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): I will consider that aspect.

Mr. President: Are we incurring any recurring expenditure on these colonies?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): Because they are unoccupied, we are not incurring any recurring charges.

Mr. President: So far as the unoccupied colonies are concerned, are we not incurring any recurring expenditure?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): I am sorry I made a mistake there. I was referring to occupied colonies.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): Are they all thatched houses, or are they tiled?

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): They are all thatched houses, I think.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): In that case you may have to spend some money for thatching and keeping them in proper condition.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am not in possession of full details. I shall enquire into these things and place a report before this House.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know, Sir, whether these colonies have been unoccupied from the beginning or have the occupants left them afterwards?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): In some cases they were occupied in the beginning and were subsequently left off, because these people could not find any work there and naturally they sought better places.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know, Sir, what is the number of houses in each of these colonies that are left unoccupied?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I want notice.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon (*Chittur-Rural*): In Chittur, is it Meenakshipuram that is unoccupied?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I want notice.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (*Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram*): Is there any house in Karalom colony?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Notice.

Mr. K. S. Panicker (*Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram*): Not even a single. കറള സ്ഥലം അവിടെ തിരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാതെ കോളനിയൊന്നുമില്ല. അധികം ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ഇതുപോലെ തന്നെ ആയിരിക്കുമെന്നാണ് തോന്നുന്നത്.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): We have reserved these places for the purpose of giving to these people.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്. പണിക്കർ : ഒരു കോളനിക്കുവേണ്ടി ഏതാ പറഞ്ഞു കറെ വെറും കുന്നസ്ഥലം നിക്ഷേപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു മാത്രമേയുള്ളൂ.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Some poramboke lands are misnamed colonies.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know whether there are houses in all these ten colonies which are unoccupied?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): There may be. I cannot definitely say. I shall give you all these answers after making an enquiry.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്. പണിക്കർ : ഈ കോളനികളിൽ അധികൃതരെ കൂടാതെ വേറെ ആളുകൾ താമസിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വാഗ്ദാനം ഗവണ്മെന്റിനറിയാമോ?

ഡാക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ : ചില ഭിക്ഷുകുളിപ്പുണ്ട്. ഒരാളേയും താ മന്ത്രിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നും അവർക്ക് ഡെഫനിറ്റായിട്ട് ഓർഡർ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know what exactly is the definition of "Depressed classes"?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The definition according to Government is, certain classes such as Cherumas, Pulayas, etc., are included under that category and they constitute "Depressed classes".

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know whether a convert of Pulaya or Paraya to Christianity will be disentitled to enjoy the concessions allowed to Depressed classes?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): According to the recommendation of this Committee, they are to be disentitled.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know what exactly is the recommendation of the Committee with regard to that matter?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That is more or less the same.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): When a Pulaya or Paraya is converted, does he cease to be a member of the Depressed classes?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It is so. Mr. Varkey of the late Congress Ministry in Madras goes a step further and says that the moment they become converted into any other religion, the educational concessions allowed to them should be taken away.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar (*Chittur-Tattamangalam*): How many such Depressed class colonies are there in Chittur?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I do not know. We are starting many more colonies such as Damba colonies. It is almost finished.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): May I know whether the change from one religion to another disentitles a particular individual from these special concessions allowed to Depressed classes?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes. That is exactly what I said.

There are poor people among all communities. But, it so happens that among Depressed classes everyone is poor. Those facilities, helps and conveniences that they may expect from their co-religionists

cannot be got by these poor people. I think, that is the only logical explanation.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): I want to know whether the mere change of religion will give an additional status to that member of the Depressed class. That is the point. He will still be classed a Pulaya in spite of the fact that he has been converted. There is only racial distinction.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Yes. The moment he changes the religion, he is no more a Depressed class.

Mr. President: Christian Pulayas are inconsistent with the term. We do not recognise caste distinctions amongst Christians. I do not know whether the Church recognises that. But the Government does not recognise that.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): If an Ezhuva becomes a Buddhist, he is still classed an "Ezhuva". He can stand as an Ezhuva in the Ezhuva Constituency. Mr. Ayyappan classed himself a Buddhist and at the same time he stood as an Ezhuva candidate in the Ezhuva constituency. Of course, there was an election petition and the court said that he is an Ezhuva.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): It is a question of fact that the whole Ezhuva community claimed him as an Ezhuva (*laughter*).

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon (*Advocate-General*): There was a petition and that question was adjudicated upon by a tribunal who, on enquiry, found out that he was a Hindu.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): When any Hindu converts himself into Christianity, for a least one generation, he will not be given all the privileges of a Christian, because even a high caste Hindu convert will not be ordained a priest.

Mr. President: Therefore, you want the Depressed classes to join your church? (*Laughter*).

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur South*): May I know whether there is any difficulty for the Government to say that all the Depressed classes, whether they belong to the Hindu community or any other community, are Depressed classes? Why should there be such a religious distinction brought in? Let us take all as "Depressed classes", whether they are Hindu or Christian Depressed classes.

Mr. President: As the Minister said, the very conception of the term "Depressed classes" is not based upon any economic condition, but it is based upon the special social degradation to which certain communities of the Hindu fold are subject to.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Then, why not you classify all these people as Depressed classes instead of classifying them as Pulayas, Parayas, etc.? Then there won't be this difficulty?

Mr. President: Those classifications are based upon history and other existing facts.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): This aspect has already been made clear in the answer to sub-division (2). There, it is stated, "There are no Depressed classes belonging to Christian and other communities. All the Depressed classes belong to the Hindu community".

Mr. President: There is no such thing as "Depressed classes belonging to any other community than Hindu".

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): My point is, a Depressed class man still remains a Depressed class man, in spite of his conversion.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): He may be a poor man; but that does not mean that he is still a Depressed class.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): It may be stated that a Pulaya depressed class consists of Pulayas, Parayas and so on. The basic conception should be "depressed class", because they all belong to the same stock.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): It so happened that these classes are Hindus in the classification, according to the Census.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): The change of religion does not make him either more depressed or less depressed. If he is a Pulaya, he will be a Pulaya.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That sympathy which a Christian or a Hindu will show to his co-religionists will not be shown to him if he ceases to be that?

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Does that mean that Caste Hindus do not show sympathy towards one who is converted to another faith?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): That is a fact. I am not afraid to state it here. It is the Caste Hindu who is responsible to a very great extent for the degradation of all Depressed classes (*hear, hear*).

Mr. A. B. Salem (Mattancheri): May I know whether there are classifications as "Christian Pulaya" and "Hindu Pulaya" among the Depressed classes?

Mr. President: There is no such class as "Christian Pulaya" at all.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: പുലയർ കൃഷ്ണാനികളായതു അവരുടെ രക്ഷക്കു വേണ്ടിയതാണ്.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): That is spiritual salvation.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: ഗവണ്മെന്റിന് അവരെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കൃഷ്ണാനികളായവർ അവർക്കു മുമ്പു കൊടുത്തിരുന്ന കൺസഷൻസ് കൊടുത്തുകൂടേ?

ഡോക്ടർ എ. ആർ. മേനോൻ: പുലയ ജാതിയിൽ നിന്നു മറ്റൊരു വർക്കും അധാരം കൺസഷൻസ് കൊടുത്തുകൊള്ളാമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കണമെന്നാണ് പറയുന്നത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: കൃഷ്ണാനികളായതു അവരുടെ രക്ഷക്കു വേണ്ടിയതാണ്. അവർക്കു മുമ്പു ഗവണ്മെന്റിൽ നിന്നും ഹിന്ദുക്കളെന്ന നിലയിൽ കൊടുത്തിരുന്ന കൺസഷൻസ് എന്നീ എടുത്തുകളയുവാവെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ ചോദിക്കുന്നത്.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur-South): The point raised by Mr. Ayyappan is this. A Pulaya, as soon as he is converted to any other religion, does not get himself much elevated, but still remains in the same position at least for some time. Therefore, he must be given some time to get himself elevated, so far as this matter is concerned.

Dr. A. R. Menon (Minister for Rural Development): The social disability under which he was suffering has been removed to a very great extent, the moment he becomes a Christian or a Mohamadan. It is only when he remains a Hindu that the stigma of his low birth is being made to feel.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (Ezhuvas-Kanayannur): It is only removed to a certain extent. Why not you help him to remove it completely? I mean the degradation is removed only to a certain extent by the conversion.

D. C. PUPILS—SUPPLY OF SCHOOL REQUISITES

127. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (Ezhuvas-Talappalli): Will the Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) what were the arrangements made for the supply of school requisites for the depressed class pupils in the educational year 1114 to 1115;